

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 04570 081941Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /065 W
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R 081919Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5364
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EEC, XA
SUBJECT: EC EMERGENCY FOOD AID FOR LESOTHO

1. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOOD AID
INDICATE THAT EC HAS DECIDED TO ALLOCATE EMERGENCY FOOD
AID TO LESOTHO CONSISTING OF 72 TONS OF WHITE CORN FLOUR,
30 TONS OF SKIMMED MILK POWDER AND 20 TONS OF BUTTEROIL.
THESE COMMODITIES REPORTEDLY WILL BE SHIPPED IN COMING
WEEKS.

2. THE EC INITIATIVE, PROMPTED BY AN EARLIER APPEAL FOR
AID BY PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN, HAS TAKEN ON ADDED URGENCY,
WE ARE TOLD, DUE TO RECENT RESTRICTIONS BY TRANSKEI
AUTHORITIES ON CROSS BORDER TRAFFIC WITH LESOTHO. IN THIS
CONNECTION, MISSION IS INFORMED THAT FOLLOWING MESSAGE OF
POLITICAL SUPPORT HAS BEEN SENT TO PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN
BY EC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON ON BEHALF OF EC
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COMMISSION:

QUOTE: I HAVE HEARD WITH GREAT CONCERN THE NEWS OF THE
FURTHER HARASSMENT TO WHICH THE PEOPLE OF LESOTHO HAVE
BEEN SUBJECTED ON YOUR COUNTRY'S BORDERS WITH THE TRANSKEI
REGION OF SOUTH AFRICA. ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION OF
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, I WOULD WISH TO ASSURE YOUR

EXCELLENCY OF OUR CONTINUING SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION
WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE PEOPLE OF LESOTHO IN
THE DIFFICULTIES AND HARDSHIPS WHICH YOU CURRENTLY FACE
AS A RESULT OF THE APARTHEID SYSTEM AND THE BANTUSTAN
POLICY. THIS SYSTEM CONSTITUTES AN INTOLERABLE VIOLATION
OF HUMAN DIGNITY, AND LIKE LESOTHO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
BELIEVES THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA SHOULD BECOME A NON-RACIAL
SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE
PEACEFULLY TOGETHER ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY. LIKE YOU,
WE ARE UNEQUIVOCAL IN OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT JUSTICE AND
FREEDOM FOR ALL PEOPLE SHOULD PREVAIL IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
IN ORDER TO ASSIST LESOTHO IN OVERCOMING ITS PRESENT DIF-
FICULTIES, IMMEDIATE STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE COMMIS-
SION TO EXPEDITE THE TRANSMISSION OF FOOD AID TO LESOTHO.
END QUOTE. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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